

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1875.]

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 14th January, 1875.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* of the 1st January, 1875, under the heading "Aligarh," mentions that the members (municipal) of the committee at Hathras have resolved upon abolishing the chungi tax, and in its place propose to establish a general income-tax on all the inhabitants of Hathras, rich and poor. The editor is of opinion that this measure, if carried out, will cause great trouble, and bring ruin upon the Hathras people, and expresses it as his firm belief that the poorer classes will remove from the scene of such oppression. He concludes by saying that if the Government would but take up the cudgels for these people and get the order rescinded, it would indeed be well, and an act of justice.

Under the heading "Mainpuri," it is said that at a place called Daltripura, situated between the city and the courts, a zemindar, who happened to have some dispute about zemindari rights with some thakurs of the place, was hanged on the branches of a mango tree; it is added that the parties to this outrage are in custody, and that the case is under investigation.

This paper publishes an article on the fraudulent dealings of Hindustani tradesmen under English law. The writer remarks that in the times of the ancient kings all this was well looked to, and care was taken to punish fraud, but that now-a-days things are very differently managed, and tradesmen can do as they please, and sell adulterated articles of food at any rates they choose to demand for them. There is nothing left but to buy at their price, no one enquires or cares to ascertain the indiscriminate plunder which daily goes on in trade. The writer, however, congratulates the Nawab of Rampur upon the able administration of his states, where no tradesman has the power to cheat or fraudulently sell to any one. "All is well looked into; gold and silver are sold as pure as pure can be; and we now make our request to government in the most supplicating terms, and ask that some little attention may be paid by it to this subject." The writer concludes by begging of government to follow the good example of the Nawab of Rampur, and by doing so, extend a great favour to the people, as well as uphold the laws of the country, which are now shamefully outraged. "It is easy," he adds, "to work a reform by proclaiming that all fraud and deceit shall, in future, be severely punished."

The *Saiyid-ul-Akhbar* of the same date publishes an article on what the writer calls "grievances of certain subjects of government on the faulty administration of the country." "In the first place," says the writer, "the grievance brought forward comes from the *raises* of Hind, and consists in our being debarred from obtaining appointments of rank and position, as was formerly the case in the time of the ancient kings. Some of the hakims are now engaging those half and half christians, so many of whom are to be found, and in several instances these have been known to deal out justice with a very unfair hand. We look with feelings of envy and discontent when we see the lists of new arrivals from England taking

up the appointments of assistant commissioners, and we cannot but think that it is *caste* prejudice which thus deprives us of a right we ought to claim at the hands of government; for it is the sacred duty of that government to spread contentment as far as it possibly can among the ruled, who naturally look to it for favour and prosperity, and as the redresser of their wrongs.

(2) "We Hindustanis do not approve of the measure adopted by government in placing military officers in civil employ; for, with few exceptions, such officers are incapable of performing the duties of residents, &c., simply because soldiers are better acquainted with the art of wielding arms than that of administration: besides they are generally, as a body, quick-tempered and ignorant, and find it difficult to cast aside the habits of soldiers and assume the more important work of civilians." The writer then goes on to point out "what has just transpired between Colonel Anderson and the Chief of Nepal," which he says has filled him with great sorrow, and expresses his opinion that no doubt this was the result of the hot temper of the former. He concludes thus,— "We are of opinion that the rajas and chiefs of Hindustan are men of respectability, and bound by good manners as they are, they pay great respect to all who are deserving of civil and respectful treatment. When any government officer exceeds his powers of oppressing any *rajs*, the latter naturally argues—"the pay of that government officer is even less than the lowest paid servant of mine, and yet this servant of government has the power to trouble me," and in despair he arrives at the conclusion that the government itself must be displeased with him to allow such a person to molest and worry him.

(3) "Missionaries are in the habit of preaching and holding forth against our religion, and in our places of worship, a custom which causes us much pain and grief. Let any one note the result of the Parsis' conduct in having

printed one word against the Nabi ! Is it not a matter of regret therefore that these Padris stand in the Jumma Masjid, and on the banks of the Jumna, and say their worst of the Nabi and the deities. This is surely most unbecoming conduct. The Hindustanis swallow their anger and remain quiet. The government ought to prevent anything calculated to create strife.

(4) " In some places when a *kirani sahib* has the power of a hakim invested in him, he loses no opportunity of abusing that power by tyrannizing over respectable Hindustanis: because he wants to obtain for himself that amount of civility and respect which is generally given to the regular hakim; failing to obtain these, he endeavours to pay them off for it. We are of opinion that this needs reform.

(5) " In the appointments of inspectors, tahsildars, and izhar navises, &c., none but men of respectability, should be employed, and not as it is now, that every gentleman who wished to favour his *khansama* should send that individual's son to learn A B C, and then having got his munshi to give him an inkling of law, put him into a good civil appointment.

(6) " The work of the municipality should, so far as its debates go, be open for the opinion of all, and not, as is now the case, be left to the opinion and will of one hakim. We have generally observed that in the meetings of these committees the opinion of a deputy commissioner is adopted by all the other members without further argument or opposition. We are of opinion that the deputy commissioner should be told not to be harsh and exacting with the members of the committee, but that he should be bound to accept the opinions of all with mildness, instead of abusing those who offer them before the committee as is now done.

(7) " Although there is a strict order by government prohibiting its officers from dealing harshly with those who have cases before them, still this habit is continued, and should most certainly be put a stop to. All hakims who

disobey the order should be dealt with as they deserve for disobedience of orders. The best way would be to note in the annual reports the peculiarities of each hakim's temper and conduct; these should be open to comment, and the opinions of those who have had cases in their courts should be taken and affixed to the reports. In such cases the immediate superior officer should look into and reprimand if necessary."

The *Akhbar-i-alam* of the 5th January draws attention to the faulty working of the Ajmer municipality, and views it as a matter of regret that these committees instead of effecting the good the government anticipated from them, should be the means of causing so much trouble and annoyance to the public in general. There is also a great want of intelligence among the honorary magistracy, and the writer considers that most of these gentlemen have obtained their high positions by flattering the hakims. He further considers them quite unfitted for such appointments, and the fact of their being so brings trouble and sorrow on the people.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the same date remarks that a considerable sum of money (some Rs. 11,000) has been found wanting in the stamp department of the treasury at Rai Bareilly. The thief has absconded.

The *Vakil-i-Hindustan* of the 6th January refers to the case of Mr. Meares thus,—“This gentleman, who was imprisoned for one month for beating a native, and to whom all the English papers gave assistance, has had his case applied for by the Secretary of State. One Englishman, who beat a native unmercifully, and only got one month's imprisonment, has now been thought worthy of the notice of the Secretary of State! This is what we call siding with one's own caste. Thousands of natives are beaten by the Europeans, and no one even asks what has been done, or why it has been done?”

The *Nur-ul-Anwar* of the 9th January notices an extensive case of dacoity in the Hoshangabad district. This place is said to be famous for dacoities ; and a recent one, perpetrated by pindaries, resulted in the loss of Rs. 45,000 worth of property. The head man of the village, afraid to face the ruffians, went off with his family to the jungles, but at last the inspector of police succeeded in capturing some 25 of them, with the property in their possession.

A case of murder is recorded as having occurred in the Karnal district in the Panipat tahsil. A woman was robbed of all her savings by an *ikka* driver in whose conveyance she was travelling. The driver (a brahman) murdered and robbed the poor woman, then buried the remains, which were discovered six months after, together with some of the property. It is added that the brahman is arrested, and the case under investigation.

The *Akhbar Anjuman-i-Panjab* of the 8th January brings forward a complaint against the lax manner in which the municipality of Lahore works, and notices a custom which prevails among the Hindus of asking alms publicly at the ceremony of Lohari, and when refused becoming very riotous and abusive in their conduct, seizing passers-by, and even forcing them to give pice, which the better classes are generally glad to do to get rid of them ; but, it is added, the *bad-mashes* take the opportunity of indulging in indecent jokes, &c. The writer adds that the fault lies at the door of the municipal committee, whose duty it is to reform all evil customs ; but unfortunately the committee does not seem to see the work for which it has been established, and this foolish custom, which causes so much annoyance, might very easily be put down by an order passed to the police in the city to prevent it.

The *Anjuman Akhbar* of the 1st January notices with much surprise the recent order issued at Akbarpur, zila Faizabad, prohibiting people from crossing the river Gogra from zila

Basti in Gorakhpur to Tanda and Akbarpur. The editor says he is at a loss to find out the reason for this on the part of government.

The *Rohilkhand Akhbar* of the 9th January, on the authority of a correspondent at Lahore, writes that considerable perplexity exists among the officers of the Panjab, at the idea of Delhi and Gurgaon being made over to the North-Western Provinces. "The officers of the Panjab commission declare that the desire of Sir William Muir and Sir John Strachey on the point is quite out of place : because Delhi is a beautiful and pleasant city, and there is not another place in the Panjab that can bear comparison with it as the glory of the province."

The *Atalik-i-Hind*, of the 11th January, publishes the following:—"Now-a-days in certain English papers we observe such statements that it is quite clear that even English editors condemn the civil servants of government. In some of the English papers it is stated that Englishmen owe most of their good luck in 'passing' to their retentive memories, and that they thus obtain civil appointments." The editor of this paper reminds government that it is high time that the government should take notice of all that is said.

This paper, on the authority of the *Indian Mirror*, states that a covenanted civilian of the north-western provinces, finding himself unable to explain to his *khansama* what he wanted flew into a rage, threw away his dinner, and ran after the *khansama* to beat him. The editor upon this says—"Now here is an opportunity for the Government of India to investigate and deal out justice. The hakim who fails to understand or make himself understood by his own private servant in a matter of food, and whose rage causes him so far to forget himself as to run after his *khidmatgar*, cannot understand the ins and outs of a case or administer justice. The opinions expressed by the native press on this point are considered biased and unworthy of notice, but it is daily

becoming more clear that in Hindustan the administration of law is best effected by Hindustani hakims ; and government will find at length, that for the sake of justice only, it will have to rely upon the Hindustani hakim."

This paper is glad to notice that several of the best English newspapers agree with it in opinion that the amount of bribery and corruption in the police is chiefly due to the small allowance paid to the constables. The writer compares this state of things to a man who will not give his dog his fill of food, and yet prevents it from gaining to the door of another man to get it. Lord Macaulay is also here quoted to the effect, "that the public does not suffer half so much by the change of government as it does by the repudiation of worn-out coin"— a pain which it feels most keenly.

"The troubles the people suffer at the hands of the police is not hidden. Under-paid constables are bold in under-hand dealings, and it is therefore the bounden duty of government to increase the pay of these constables, and by so doing put a stop to these acts of oppression."

Comments are offered on a recent case of dacoity at Hoshiarpur, committed in the house of Munshi Das Mal, tahsildar of Hoshiarpur, on the 5th January. It is said that property of the value of Rs. 30,000 has been made off with, the reward offered being Rs. 3,500 for the discovery of the thieves. The writer considers it a matter of regret that one person should lose so much, but he thinks it a great marvel that one tahsildar, whose pay averages some Rs. 150 a month, should possess so much property, and keep the same by him as a public servant.

The *Shola-i-Tur* of the 12th January complains that in Cawnpore city certain mahajans, who transact money business, are in the habit of dealing with a caste called "bavaryas," who are notoriously bad characters, and whose profession is plunder and theft. These mahajans are the receivers of stolen property, and thus gain is brought to both parties. Moreover,

these bavaryas have their brethren engaged in service in the city, and are thus enabled to give information concerning all wealthy and unprotected female travellers—the result being theft and highway robberies. The police search in vain for them.

The *Sadadarsha* of the 11th January offers grateful thanks to Lord Northbrook for the part he took in the famine, and adds a prayer that his lordship will now open out a canal in Bengal to avert the evil in future.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 12th January, while bringing to notice in favourable terms the young maharaja of Alwur (Mangal Singh), adds that, although his installation has given very general satisfaction to the people, he is not the nearest of kin to the late maharaja, although a very worthy man, and one from whom much is expected in the way of good administration.

The *Naf-ul-Azim* of the 5th January reiterates the complaints of other native journals concerning crime at and near Gwalior. The Gwalior Chief is said to be quite apathetic, and people go about armed and prepared to commit systematic robbery, without any prospects of their being apprehended or punished. The roads are described as quite unsafe for travellers, and the matter has become so serious that the arms of children are said to be cut off for the sake of the ornaments they wear on them. The people generally are much distressed at this state of things, but powerless to prevent it, and the subject is again brought prominently forward, in the hope that the Government of India may adopt measures to suppress it by holding the chief responsible, and making him understand that it is part of his duty to protect his subjects and all travellers through his dominions.

COMMERCIAL.

(*Railways.*)

The *Urdu Akhbar* of the 8th January publishes an article on the mismanagement of the Holkar state railway. In

the first place the writer remarks that all the engine-drivers and guards are natives, and always to be found in an intoxicated condition; but, independent of this irregular conduct, they are seldom at their posts, and the work is therefore done by coolies, the lives of all who travel on the line are consequently in jeopardy. The writer attributes this state of things partly to the small pay of the workmen. After instancing the accident at the Khandawa station (noticed at page 576 of the *Selections* for the papers received up to 23rd November, 1874), which occurred about a month ago, he concludes by stating that tradesmen have discontinued sending their goods by this line owing to the accidents which have occurred upon it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Patiala Akhbar* of the 4th January, alluding to a "commercial association" at Benares, states that certain well-wishers of their country have combined to form this association. They meet every Sunday, the share of each amounts to from Rs. 25 to Rs. 250, and the object is the opening out a trade; and in order that by means of Hindustani workmen machinery should be made and sold—such as weaving-machines, &c., besides which other machines will be imported, as soon as the means admit of this being done. Daily encouragement is given by the respectable classes of the place to this association, and there is great hope of success entertained.

The *Najim-ul Akhbar* of the 1st January notices the resolution said to have been made by the citizens of Bombay, Benares, Baroda, and Bangalore, to wear no clothing made of material woven out of Hindustan.

In the summary of news it is noticed, that the general and systematic wearing of arms in Burmah has attracted the notice of government officers, "to whom it has become a matter of suspicion and fear." It is added that the fort of Ava has been completed, but that it only admits of fighting

with bows and arrows. "The Shah of Burmah has also passed orders for the preparation of ships of war, and had guns mounted on them."

The *Rohilkhand Akhbar* of the 6th January accords due praise to the Lieutenant-Governor of the north-western provinces for his recent order concerning the repairing of the Taj Mahal at Agra. The writer expresses a hope that the government will not lose sight of its duty in respect to other ancient buildings fast falling into disrepair, and which a little timely aid might save from utter ruin.

The *Khurshid-i-Jahantab* of the 1st January, under the heading "Cabul News," says that the amir has caused it to be proclaimed that whoever hints at or speaks of Herat affairs shall have his tongue cut out.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 12th January notices the visit of the Burmese ambassadors to the theatre at Calcutta. Their appearance is said to have amused the audience, especially their new-fashioned turbans, which the writer thinks likely to be adopted by European ladies, "as they have a very feminine appearance about them, and are not fit to be worn by men." The writer says,—"Judging by the paltry presents the ambassadors have brought for the Viceroy, the king of Burmah must be in straitened circumstances."

The *Lauh-i-Mahfuz* of the 8th January, in noticing the alleged murder of Sardar Yakub Khan, the account of which he acknowledges as being extracted from the *Lucknow Times* of the 23rd December, 1874, offers the following comments :— "We grieve much to hear this, and if it be true perhaps the army about to proceed against the Afredis will go even further than the Khaibar Pass to fight. But the surprising part of it is that the Amir Sher Ali Khan should have so lost sight of the imperative orders of Government to have committed this crime ; and if the amir has really done this, all we can say is that he has only planted a thorn in his own rights : for it is certain that the succession of Abdulla Jan is now an

impossibility. Ayub Khan will certainly avenge his brother's murder, and as Yakub Khan has many friends, they will never permit his murderer to live. Again, it will not be strange if the treaty between the government and the amir is set aside." The editor concludes by stating that he knew perfectly well that Yakub Khan only went to Cabul at the instigation of the vakil of the government (Ata Muhammad Khan), a piece of deception practised by him; therefore the blood of Yakub Khan is on the head of this man alone, and we do hope that government will adopt measures for the removal of a man like this from such a responsible post."

The *Atalik-i-Hind* of the 11th January, referring to a notice in the *Pioneer*, concerning some meeting of the clergy for the propagation of the gospel, calls upon Hindus and Musalmans to remember that in this country there is a third sect springing up, which is doing all it can to diffuse its religion throughout the length and breadth of the land, and yet no attention seems to be paid to it. The writer concludes by calling upon Hindus and Musalmans to also get up meetings for the spread of their religions.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Language.	Locality.	When Published.	Date.	Date of Receipt.
28	Roznamcha,	"	Lucknow,	Daily,	Jany., 1st	18th
29	Ditto,	"	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 2nd	12th
30	Ditto,	"	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 4th	12th
31	Ditto,	"	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 5th	12th
32	Malwa Akhbar,	"	Indaur,	Weekly,	" 6th	12th
33	Shams-ul-Akhbar,	"	Lucknow,	Bi-monthly,	" 8th	12th
34	Jabalpur Samachar,	"	Jabalpur,	Monthly,	" 18th	18th
35	Ditto,	"	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 18th	18th
36	Ditto,	"	Ditto,	Ditto,	1st	18th
37	Marwar Gazette,	"	Jodhpur,	Weekly,	" 4th	18th
38	Aligarh Institute Gazette,	"	Aligarh,	Ditto,	" 8th	13th
39	Akhbar-i-Anjuman-i-Punjab,	"	Lahore,	Ditto,	" 8th	18th
40	Najm-ul-Akhbar,	"	Meerut,	Ditto,	" 8th	13th
41	Jalwa-i-Tur,	"	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 8th	13th
42	Khair Khwah-i-Panjab,	"	Gujranwala,	Bi-weekly,	" 8th	18th
43	Oudh Akhbar,	"	Lucknow,	Bi-weekly,	" 12th	18th
44	Anjuman Akhbar,	"	Shahjahanpur,	Weekly,	" 1st	14th
45	Benares Akhbar,	"	Benares,	Ditto,	" 7th	14th
46	Maksud-ul-Akhbar,	"	Gurgaon,	Ditto,	" 1st week.	14th
47	Hindu Rakash,	"	Amritsar,	Ditto,	" 8th	14th
48	Lauh-i-Mahfuz,	"	Moradabad,	Bi-weekly,	" 8th	14th
49	Rohilkhand Akhbar,	"	Ditto,	Bi-monthly,	" 9th	14th
50	Nasir-ul-Akhbar,	"	Delhi,	Ditto,	" 9th	14th
51	Nasir-ul-Islam,	"	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 11th	14th
52	Sadarsha,	"	Anglo-Hindi,	Weekly,	" 11th	14th
53	Atalik-i-Hind,	"	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 12th	14th
54	Shola-i-Tur,	"	Lahore,	Ditto,	"	"
			Cawnpore,			

GEORGE WAGENTREIBER,
Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

DELHI :
The 20th January, 1875. }